

Several Predictors of MP Response Used Together

Age was the most significant predictor of MP response, with none of the oldest quartile of patients having an MP 3, 4, or 5 response. In an exploratory analysis of whether any of the other variables might add to the prediction based on age, we did step up logistic regression for the outcome of MP 3, 4, or 5 response, omitting the oldest quartile of age. Using this approach, BRCA1 mRNA added significantly to predictions based on age alone. When the oldest quartile of patients were omitted, the patients in the four quartiles of BRCA1 mRNA expression were observed to have 100%, 67%, 50%, and 25% MP 3,4, or 5 responses (with unknowns having 67% responses; $P=0.03$ from a test on the four ordered categories). If one corrected for multiple comparisons, then the addition of BRCA1 mRNA information to age would not be significant, but it might be worth reexamining BRCA1 mRNA and age in a larger set of triple negative patients treated with cisplatin.